

2551 (2008)
The Twenty-Fourth General Conference
Tokyo, Japan

The 24th General Conference of the WFB was held in Asakusa, Tokyo, Japan from 13-17 November B.E. 2551 (2008) on the theme “Buddhists’ Contribution to Resolving Social Problems” attended by 370 attendees from 19 countries worldwide. There was a special Buddhist event for World Peace held at Senso-ji Temple which main hall was reconstructed 50 years ago, after World War II; gathered by participants and local Asakusa citizens for this unique service. It is hoped that the conference will reach across all spiritual, cultural and national boundaries, to bring the light of liberation into the world.

All Buddhists know that with the teaching of Lord Buddha will alleviate sufferings of humankind, the message from His Holiness Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara, Supreme Patriarch of Thailand and the Patron of the WFB, to this conference was truly guided the way to apply Dharma to our way of life “..to imply the Dharma to accomplish peace and happiness in society and the world, Buddhists need to cooperate with each other together with making selfless sacrifice and generating loving-kindness. Always be reminded that our ultimate goal is to work in harmony for the benefit and happiness of mankind and gods.”

Whereas, H.E. Phan Wannamethee, reiterated in his opening message that “With patience, toleration and the spirit of compassion or loving kindness, Buddhists can resolve all problems and troubles so that peace and harmony may replace conflict and discord throughout the world.”

The conference was concluded by Tokyo Declaration with detail as followed:

- ❖ We recognize that Buddhists the world over have an important contribution to make through the Teachings of the Buddha as promoted by all traditions to ensure the happiness and benefit of all sentient beings;
- ❖ We further urge that the forthcoming celebration of the 2600th anniversary of the Buddhahood in Vesak 2011, be utilized to expand and improve the social consciousness of Buddhists and that as many projects as resources permit be undertaken in the fields identified in our deliberations;
- ❖ Being conscious of the recent natural disasters which have affected Buddhist societies, we re-dedicate ourselves to enhancing the role of The World Fellowship of Buddhists to provide immediate and adequate humanitarian support to affected areas and communities; and
- ❖ Finally, we urge all Buddhists to continue to promote with renewed attention the four sublime states of Loving Kindness, Compassion, Sympathetic Joy and Equanimity for the benefit of all humanity.